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Assistant to DCI

2 December 1955

Director of Training

Weekly Summary Report  
(15-22 November 1955)

Document No. 098  
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
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Class. CONFIDENTIAL 55 S (C)  
Auth: DOA 1-2-1-1-1-1-1-1  
Date: 31/01/98 By: 008

# INTRODUCTION

Apropos of the recent announcement by the Department of Defense of a program on "Militant Liberty," the Office of Training can report that it initiated a program of training on the principles of democracy two years ago and has steadily developed it since that time. This week, the Office reports that it has been preparing a training program to introduce the new Fitness Report in January.

## USE OF THE AMERICAN THESIS IN OTR TRAINING

1. The Department of Defense recently announced a program, initiated 18 months ago, that shall "set forth basic principles of a free society which can be readily explained and understood by peoples anywhere in the world."

2. Two years ago in August 1953, the faculty of the Basic Orientation course, Office of Training, discovered that its students knew so little of the history of the United States and its basic documents that they could not present cogent arguments against the Communist dialectic. At that time, the faculty established a short seminar providing for group discussions on "Democracy and the American Way of Life." To support the seminar, later lengthened from three to eight hours, the faculty assembled a bibliography on the subject and a series of historical selections--The American Thesis. They also produced a training film, "Conversation in Delhi," a discussion between a high-caste Hindu and an American on democracy vs. communism. When the author of the Department of Defense began his work on his thesis, he consulted with members of the Office of Training and examined what they had accomplished.

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**SUBJECT: Weekly Summary Report**

3. This seminar on democratic principles has received enthusiastic acceptance, and the two documents, the bibliography and the selections, have had wide distribution through class members. Recently, requests have come in from the Far East for overseas copies of both. The Office of Training is preparing small offset-printed manuals for ready transmission and convenient use.

**TRAINING PROGRAM TO ACCOMPANY NEW FITNESS REPORT**

For the past several months, the Assessment and Evaluation Staff of the Office of Training has been working in coordination with the Office of Personnel on a revised Fitness Report form that would support all aspects of the Career Service Program and provide the supervisor with an effective evaluation procedure. The Career Council has approved the Fitness Report for introduction on 1 January 1956 and directed that a training program be planned in preparation for its use. The training program, prepared by the Office of Training for presentation to the Career Council on 15 December, includes a briefing for senior officers throughout the Agency on the form and its philosophy, and indoctrination for supervisors on the procedures of use.

**MATTHEW BAIRD**  
Director of Training

MB:lbc

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